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Clarke Shepards in starving class

By MICHAEL REDHILL

Assuming that they won't censor it, Sam Shepard's play about the disintegration of the family, *Curse of the Starving Class*, will open in the Samuel Beckett Theatre (Stong College) on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m.

Director Frank Clarke says he was attracted to this particular Shepard play because it deals with the breakdown of the family. "It's a play about a family who wants to stay together, but they're finding outside influences and their own differences are tearing them apart."

Clarke says that although Shepard is an optimist he is fascinated by "the dark side of the American Dream" and the dissolution of the family. *Curse of the Starving Class* is a bleak

play, yet according to Clarke, "Shepard sees potential for growth."

The play has been in rehearsal for over a month, and although the rehearsals have run smoothly, Clarke reports some of the actors have had a difficult time breaking the surface of the text. "A certain degree of surrealism makes the characters difficult to get into at first," Clarke explained. "We used some improvisations to break down some of the problems."

Clarke said that, for him, it was difficult to undertake the script until he knew what the driving force of the play and its characters were. "I really had to dig into it... their common drive, I found, was their desire to keep on going as a family, although

they all have different ideas of what exactly makes up the family."

In many of Shepard's plays, his characters are not even clear on their own intentions. Their desires are muddled; they're cluttered with opposing needs and wishes. "*Curse of the Starving Class* is an especially rich play," says Clarke. "Shepard has written a play loaded with subtext, and the characters are gutsy. They tend to be very direct with each other. It makes for a very muscular play."

Curse of the Starving Class runs from Nov. 24 to Nov. 28, curtain at 8 p.m., with one matinee on Saturday, Nov. 28. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door, or can be reserved by calling 731-6472.

A tribute to Tarkovsky



The late Soviet filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky

By MARTY FAIRBAIRN

Films of the late Soviet director Andrei Tarkovsky, whom both Bergman and Antonioni referred to as, "the most important director of our time" are on view all next week at the York Quay Centre at Harbourfront. Providing a context for this complete retrospective will be Donatella Baglivo's documentary on the unorthodox, expatriate Soviet filmmaker entitled *A Poet in the Cinema* (1983).

Shot on the set of Tarkovsky's *Nostalghia* (his 1983 "meditation on

exile, madness and the end of the world") Baglivo's documentary is essentially a 100-minute interview interspersed with snippets of footage from his films.

Compelling, like a bad accident on the 401, Tarkovsky's work is hard to look at but, like a Rorschach test illumines from the inside. Baglivo's documentary reflects the basic ambiguity of her subject, a sufferer after truth. Appropriately filmed in the fall, it presents us with a dark, tortured "soul" (he doesn't like to laugh because it makes him feel

"guilty") engaged in a lifelong search for that which he apparently feels does not exist, spirituality or a balance between the inner spiritual and the outer material.

Abandoned at an early age by his father (a poet), Tarkovsky was encouraged in the arts by his mother who sent him to the Moscow School of the Arts, and later to the Soviet State Film School. Early expectations of a career as a music conductor soon changed when he became aware of the possibilities of film as an expressive medium. This early musical influence manifests itself in the orchestration of his camera movement and in the pacing of the shots.

Liberal strewn with religious and sexual imagery; often violent, often sentimental, always disturbing, his films reflect a troubled past and an uncertain future. *Ivan's Childhood* (1962), his first feature film, is about a twelve-year-old orphan boy who volunteers to go on suicide missions behind German lines during World War II. Sartre has written about Ivan and his lost childhood, "He is mad, he is a monster. He is a little hero. In truth he is the most innocent and touching victim of the war. This boy whom one cannot help but like, has been forged by violence."

A R T S C A L E N D A R

GALLERIES

Allen Denney, an exhibition of the sculptor's work. Zacks Gallery. (109 Stong) from Nov. 11-24.

Contemporary Greek Art, from the collection of the Vorres Museum. AGYU(N145 Ross). Until Nov.22.

"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Bat: The House Project, The Nursery." an exhibition of new work by sculptor Ron Sandor. Glendon Gallery (York Hall, Glendon College). Until Nov.29.

Wayne Emery, a solo exhibition of the artist's work. IDA Gallery (102 Fine Arts Bldg.) Until Nov.20.

Winters Art Gallery (123 Winters) presents group shows from fourth year studios. An interdisciplinary studio will be open from Nov. 17-20. A painting studio will be open from Nov. 24-27.

MUSIC

Toronto Concert Orchestra Concert, sponsored by Winters College. Programme includes works by Debussy, Glick, Horwood, and Ravel. Soloists are Aditi Gowrisankaran on violin, Richard Stenson on double bass, James McKay conducting. Tickets available at the door. Nov.21 at 8pm at the Church of the Redeemer (Bloor St. and Avenue Rd.)

Lunch Time Jazz, CHRY-FM presents live jazz (band TBA). Free admission. All welcome to the Vanier Jr. Common Room, Nov. 24 at noon.

Composer Louis Andriessia, from Holland, will give a lecture at McLaughlin Hall, Nov. 25 at 1:30 pm. "**Musicians and Their Ears,**" a

lecture by Paul Madaule, director of the Listening Centre, Toronto. All welcome to Room 023 Winters College, Nov. 26 at 5pm.

CJRT-FM Concert Series presents the "Murray Schafer Retrospective" Featuring the CJRT Radio Orchestra and soloists Christina Petrowska on piano, Eleanor James, mezzo-soprano, Paul Robinson and James KcKay conducting. All welcome to Room 023 Winters College, Nov. 26 at 8pm.

Jerry Jerry and the Sons of Rhythm Orchestra, The coolest band on earth, plays the Grad Lounge (Ross Bldg, 7th floor) on Nov. 21 at 8pm as part of the CHRY-FM Concert Series.

The Razorbacks, a CHRY sponsored concert playing in the Grad Lounge on Nov. 23 at 8pm.

DANCE

The York Dance Dept. presents new choreography by students and faculty on Nov. 19 and 20 in Burton Auditorium(Fine Arts Bldg.) Tickets \$6. Students/Seniors \$3.

THEATRE

The York Theatre Dept. presents "Waiting for the Parade" and "Oh It's a Lovely War." Nov. 16-28. Phone the box office at 736-5157 for more info.

Samuel Beckett Theatre presents Sam Shepard's "Curse of the Starving Class" directed by Frank Clarke. Nov. 24-27 at 8pm and Nov. 28 at 2pm. Tickets \$4. Students/Seniors \$3 at door or phone 731-6472 for reservations.

Theatre Glendon presents "Mankind" directed by John Mayberry. Nov. 24-28 at 8:30pm in Theatre Glendon (2275 Bayview Avenue at Lawrence) Tickets \$4.

SEMINARS

The Women in Arts Seminars presents Lisa Steele, a Toronto video artist from the Ontario College of Arts on Nov. 24 from 12-1:30pm in the Purple Lounge (3rd floor, Fine Arts Bldg.)

The New Artist' Business Seminars present "Paying Your Dues: Tax and Artists." The speaker is Errol Wolff, MBA CA at Visual Arts Ontario (2nd floor, 439 Wellington Street West, Toronto). Pre-registration is necessary, so call 591-8883. Tickets \$6 nonmembers, \$4 members.

PUBLICATIONS

Yak will launch its first issue of 87 at a special reading in Winters on Nov. 24 at 5pm. Writers in this issue (Vol 2 No1) will read from the magazine and other works. The reading will be held in the Winter's Senior Common Room. Yak will be available free at the reading as well as a special Yak Table in central square on Nov 25 and 26.

If you are planning an arts event, drop us a few lines explaining what, when, and where in the ARTS CALENDAR envelope at the Excalibur Office, 111 Central Square.

Compiled by Christine Bouchard and Heather Sangster